

***Lathyrus vestitus* ssp. *bolanderi*** (S. Wats.) C.L. Hitchc.  
Bolander's pea  
Fabaceae (Pea Family)

**Status:** State Endangered

**Rank:** G5T?S1

**General Description:** Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1961): A rhizomatous perennial herb that is hairless or has only a few cilia on the calyx teeth. The stems are 12 to 40 in. (30 to 100 cm) long, sub-erect to climbing, and angled to narrowly winged. The stipules are  $\frac{1}{4}$  to as long as the leaflets, and ovate to linear. There are 8 to 12 imperfectly paired to scattered leaflets that are linear to ovate,  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 2 in. (2 to 5 cm) long, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 1  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. (5 to 30 mm) broad. The tendrils are well developed and usually branched. There are 8 to 15 ochroleucous, creamy white (ours), or pale tan-purple flowers that are  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. (14 to 16 mm) long. The calyx tube is shorter than the calyx lobes. The upper lobes of the calyx are deltoid-lanceolate, less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  as long as the lateral pair. The lateral pair is lanceolate but noticeably widened just above the base. The banner is  $\frac{2}{3}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. (17 to 22 mm) long, narrowly obcordate, with the blade subequal or longer than the claw. The wings are slightly shorter than the banner with the claw subequal to the blade. The keel is about equal to the wings with the tip scarcely at all recurved. The flowers are white, fading to orange with age. The style is less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. (7 mm) long and the ovary is glabrous to sparsely glandular. The pod is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. (4 to 6 cm) long,  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. (4 to 7 mm) broad, and hairless or sparsely glandular.

**Identification Tips:** *Lathyrus vestitus* ssp. *bolanderi* is the only variety of *L. vestitus* in Washington. There are three species of *Lathyrus* with whitish flowers in Washington: *L. ochroleucus*, *L. vestitus* and *L. holochlorus*. *L. ochroleucus* occurs only on the east side of the Cascade Mountains, while the latter two species are solely west of the Cascades. Of the two species west of the Cascades, *L. holochlorus* has a banner blade shorter than the banner claw and calyx lobes that are not broadened above the base, while *L. vestitus* ssp. *bolanderi* has a banner blade equal to or longer than the claw and lateral calyx lobes that are broadened above the base. *L. vestitus* also tends to branch only at the base of the plant, while *L. holochlorus* branches at the mid and upper nodes. Our variety can be distinguished from the more southern varieties of *L. vestitus* by its small flowers and glabrous habit. Variety *bolanderi* has purple flowers in the portion of its range south of central Oregon.

***Lathyrus vestitus* ssp. *bolanderi***  
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Known distribution of  
*Lathyrus vestitus*  
ssp. *bolanderi*  
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

***Lathyrus vestitus* ssp. *bolanderi***

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Photo by Florence Caplow



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**Phenology:** Flowers from May to June.

**Range:** The taxon is historically known from King, Thurston, Lewis, and Cowlitz counties, Washington, south to central California.

**Habitat:** *L. vestitus* ssp. *bolanderi* is found in dry, open to wooded areas. In Washington, this taxon occurs at elevations of 200-300 ft (70-90 m) on roadsides near or within historic prairies.

**Ecology:** This taxon is pollinated by bees in the genera *Bombus*, *Synhalonia*, and *Osmia*, as well as by butterflies (Broich 1987).

**State Status Comments:** There are three recent occurrences along roadsides in Thurston and Lewis counties.

**Inventory Needs:** Open to lightly wooded areas near historic prairies in King, Pierce, Lewis, and Thurston Counties should be systematically surveyed for additional populations. Recorded populations should be revisited.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Definite threats have not been identified for *L. vestitus* ssp. *bolanderi*. However, the small number of known occurrences and its restriction to roadside habitat in Washington are major concerns.

**Comments:** This taxon is described as *L. vestitus* ssp. *ochropetalus* in Hitchcock et al. (1961). The best source of taxonomic information is in Broich (1987).

**References:**

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownby, and J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 614 pp.

Broich, S.L. 1987. Revision of the *Lathyrus vestitus-lactiflorus* complex (Fabaceae). *Systematic Botany* 12: 139-153.